

5 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM:

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Special Assistant to the DCI

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SUBJECT: Soviet Imports

1. For what products are Soviet production lines dependent on imports, and from where?

2. At present we are able to answer this question only by anecdote. We know the Russians import brakes for Kama River trucks from Poland. They import nickel and cobalt from Cuba. The Russians even import vodka from Vietnam (this leaves more Russian vodka available for export to the West).

3. What we lack is a clear snapshot of Soviet import dependency. With a snapshot, we would be able to judge, for instance, the extent to which Soviet production is being disrupted by events in Poland. We would also be able to predict the extent to which trouble in another satellite--e.g., Romania--would back up production lines in the Soviet Union or elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

4. We could take three cuts at the issue:

a. Soviet dependency on Poland.

b. Soviet dependency on all satellites.

c. Soviet Bloc trade patterns, to show the extent to which trouble anywhere would cause disruptions everywhere.

5. What resources would be needed to gather information along these lines? How long would it take?

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